

## Morgan Betz, 1974, NL

What Morgan Betz's art makes clear is that a great deal of present-day art is irrelevant because it does not demonstrate its legitimacy. Every work of art must be able to answer the question of whether it is truly of any added value. Beauty in itself does not suffice. Betz's paintings and objects are certainly not beautiful, in the classical sense of the word. He deliberately crashes off the track to find out whether anything new can be made from the ruins. He has a subtle gift for subversion, a talent that is sadly lacking from much contemporary art.

How does this subversion work? Betz is capable of drawing inspiration and influence from the maladjusted and tragicomic elements of our everyday lives. It takes courage to turn away from the customary practices of rationalization and conceptualisation in today's visual culture.

How does it demonstrate its relevance? His work can be described as a reservoir of images, fragments, and quotations. The accumulation of all these layers enables Betz to redefine the material he has collected in terms of content. The process of making the work becomes an exercise in finding the right balance between directness, construction, and the tension of a planned outcome. Betz's quest is for a closing equilibrium in which the image achieves tranquillity: the moment at which it needs nothing beyond itself in order to convince, and is no longer an illustration of ideas.

Solo exhibitions include *Flies on Milk, Green Eggs and Ham*, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag (2018); *Transformer*, Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam (2015); *Brussels Cologne Contemporaries*, Galerie Warhus Rittershaus, Cologne (2014); *Morgiana*, Willem Baars Projects (2011); *Baker Street*, Aschenbach & Hofland Galerie, Amsterdam (2009).

Group exhibitions include; *Cluster Bubble*, Studio Omstand, Arnhem (2019); *The Most Contemporary Painting Show*, Museum Dordrecht, Dordrecht (2018); *120 minutes*, Art Brussels (2015) *November Rain (Böhmen 2)*, Böhmen, Berlin; *Change your desires rather than the order of the world* Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam (curated by Zlatko Wurzburg, 2012)

Museum and public collections include: Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, Den Haag; Museum Dordrecht, Dordrecht; AKZO Nobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam;

## **EDUCATION**

Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam  
De Ateliers, Amsterdam

Lives and works in Amsterdam, Berlin and Tokyo

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2018** *Flies on Milk, Green Eggs and Ham*  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, Den Haag
- 2015** *Transformer*  
Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam
- 2014** *Brussels Cologne Contemporaries*  
Galerie Warhus Rittershaus, Cologne
- 2011** *Morgiana*  
Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam
- 2009** *New Work*  
Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam  
*Baker Street*  
Aschenbach & Hofland Galerie, Amsterdam
- 2008** *Nova Swing (with Lutz Driessen)*  
Anna Klinkhammer Galerie, Düsseldorf  
*Amour Fou*  
Galerie Hidde van Seggelen, London
- 2007** *Bermuda Love Triangle (with Helgi Thorsson)*  
101 Gallery, Reykjavík
- 2006** *Die Welt des Essens*  
Kunstraum acapulco, Düsseldorf
- 2005** *Poep Bruin (together with Rob Birza)*  
De Overslag, Eindhoven  
*Cet obscur objet du Plaisir*  
Ministry OC&W, Den Haag  
*Saloon des Independents (with Frank Koolen)*  
Atelierhaus Mengerzeile, Berlin

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2019** *Cluster Bubble*  
Studio Omstand, Arnhem
- 2018** *De Meest Eigentijdse Schilderijen Tentoonstelling*  
Museum Dordrecht, Dordrecht  
*Joost van den Toorn: Beelden, Morgan Betz: Collages*  
Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam
- 2015** *Druck Berlin*  
Urban Spree Galerie, Berlin  
*120 Minutes*  
Art Brussels, Brussels
- 2014** *Oranžerija*  
Biennale Vilnius, Lithuania – curated by Zilvinas Landzbergas
- 2013** *November Rain (Böhmen #2)*  
Böhmen, Berlin  
*Summer Exhibition*  
Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam
- 2012** *Murder Ink*  
curated by Christof Mascher  
Der Grieche, Berlin  
*Change your desires rather than the order of the world*  
curated by Zlatko Wurzburg  
Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam  
*Summer Exhibition: group show with artists of the gallery*  
Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam
- 2011** *What's up! De Jongste Schilderkunst in Nederland*  
Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht (NL)  
*Plastische Positionen im Jetzt*  
Galerie Warhus Rittershaus, Cologne  
*Drawing on hands*  
curated by Serge Onnen  
Print Room, Rotterdam (NL)  
*Kjarval Division*  
Nylo – The living art museum, Reykjavik
- 2010** *Lucy Stein presents LIVING IN ORANGE!!! (easyjetsetters)*  
The Forgotten Bar – Galerie im Regierungsviertel, Berlin  
*Remain in Light*  
W139, Amsterdam
- 2009** *Neue Künstler, Richtiger Schnaps*  
Galerie Warhus Rittershaus, Cologne  
*A4 SHOW*  
Salon Chanel, Berlin  
*Remain in Light*

W139, Amsterdam

*N.t.*

(with Paul Haworth, Simon Hemmer, Lutz Driessen)

Villa Goecke, Krefeld (GER)

**2008** *KAAP*

Fort Ruigenhoeksedijk, Utrecht (NL)

